

Travellers ask Lords to consider appeal

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TRAVELLERS are more confident than ever of continuing their fight against eviction from the Dale Farm campsite.

They say they have now been granted legal aid to take their case to the highest court in the land.

Law Lords will consider an application for an appeal against the eviction.

If successful, the case may be among the first to be heard by the Supreme Court, a new body which is being set up by the Government to act as the country's final court of appeal.

Representatives of nearly 90 families at the Dale Farm site at Crays Hill, near Billericay, have issued a statement saying their case is now likely to go before the court, which is due to start hearing cases in October.

Grattan Puxon, a campaigner for the families, said travellers would be asking the court to end "a policy of physical exclusion which has afflicted gipsies in Britain for generations".

- They say they have legal aid for application
- Children's watchdog asks for eviction details

He said: "Thousands have been evicted from their own land and tens of thousands of children denied a chance to go to school.

"Old folk and the sick have been left to perish, because medical care has been unobtainable in what is supposed to be a welfare state. A few of those internal refugees have sought refuge at Dale Farm."

At a meeting at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church on Saturday, church leaders agreed plans to help the most vulnerable Dale Farm residents should an eviction go ahead.

And the Children's Commissioner has asked Basildon Council for details of its eviction plan.

Specifically, the commissioner wants to know what would be done to avoid trauma to the 150 children who live at Dale Farm and where they would live.

VILLAGERS RAISE CONCERNS OVER HORSES

RESIDENTS in Crays Hill have raised concerns over another green belt site in the village, owned by four travellers who live at Dale Farm.

Ramsden Crays Parish Council recently met Basildon Council officials after travellers were seen blocking access to land at Pond Farm, off London Road, improving fencing and moving horses there.

One villager, who refused to be named, said: "I think it is some sort of test. Horses first, before they put people on."

The travellers only own the front four plots of the land, but residents say the horses were soon straying onto other people's property.

Basildon Council leader Malcolm Buckley said: "There is nothing to stop horses going on, but we are monitoring the site."

Ramsden Crays Parish Council



■ Cause for concern – horses on the land in Crays Hill

chairman David McPherson-Davis, added: "The council told us it will be contacting other landowners to see if they are aware."

Gazi Chalabi, of Monadia Properties, which owns much of the land, said she had no idea horses were being grazed there, or that access had been blocked.